# ENGAGING THE WILDFIRE APPLICATIONS COMMUNITY WITH SAR

NISAR APPLICATIONS TEAM: E. NATASHA STAVROS\*, SUSAN OWEN\*,
CATHLEEN JONES\*

CO-AUTHORS: MARCO LAVALLE\*, SANG-HO YUN\*, SASSAN SAATCHI\*, JOSEF KELLNDORFER (EARTH BIG DATA), PAUL ROSEN\*

\* JET PROPULSION LABORATORY, CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

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#### **OBJECTIVES**

- Increase SAR literacy in the context of wildfire management and the upcoming NISAR mission
- IDENTIFY THE BEST VENUE AND APPROACH FOR REACHING THE WILDFIRE COMMUNITY
  - Build partnerships and collaborations to identify and develop needed information products
  - IDENTIFY GAPS IN KNOWLEDGE OF HIGHEST VALUE TO THE COMMUNITY WITH FOCUSED AND DETAILED DISCUSSIONS OF WHAT THE SAR DATA NEEDS ARE INCLUDING:
  - ASSESS THE FEASIBILITY OF NISAR TO MEET THE TOP PRIORITIES FOR THE APPLICATION AREA
  - IDENTIFY HIGH PRIORITY APPLICATIONS FOR NISAR TO FOCUS EFFORTS

#### OUTLINE

- Introduction to SAR (15 min)
- APPLICATIONS FOR WILDFIRE MANAGEMENT (15 MIN)
- NISAR FLIGHT PROJECT AND APPLICATIONS PLAN OVERVIEW (10 MIN)
- TABLE TOP EXERCISE (45 MIN)
- Concluding Thoughts (5 min)

#### WHY SAR?

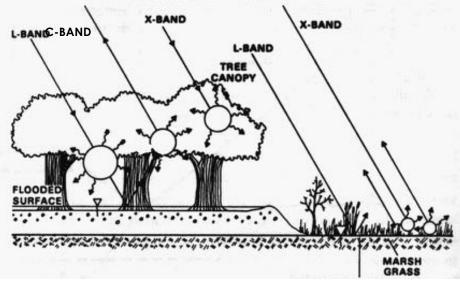
- CLOUD PENETRATION
  - KEY FOR MONITORING TROPICAL FORESTS AND ARCTIC/BOREAL
  - KEY FOR ANNUAL OBSERVATIONS
- NIGHTTIME OBSERVATIONS
  - MONITOR POLES DURING WINTER
- SENSITIVITY TO FOREST VERTICAL STRUCTURE
- SENSITIVITY TO FLOODING AND SOIL MOISTURE

SLIDE COURTESY OF: JOSEF KELLNDORFER





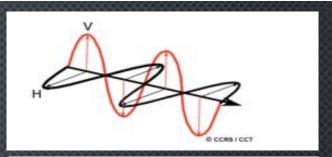


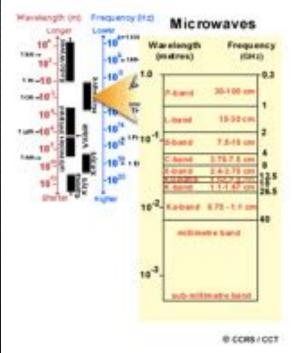


From: Manual of Remote Sensing Third Edition, Vol 2

#### THE BASICS

- FIGURES FROM THIS SLIDE AND FANTASTIC EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE:
   CANADA CENTRE FOR MAPPING AND EARTH OBSERVATION
   (FORMERLY CANADA CENTRE FOR REMOTE SENSING), NATURAL
   RESOURCES CANADA
- ELECTROMAGNETIC WAVES EMITTED FROM A SOURCE, PROPAGATE IN HORIZONTAL (H) AND VERTICAL (V) WITH FIELD STRENGTH AND PHASE IN EACH DIRECTION.
- RADAR USES MICROWAVES
- 4 TECHNIQUES:
  - 1. SIMPLE BACKSCATTER
  - 2. COHERENT POLARIMETRY
  - 3. POLARIMETRIC INTERFEROMETRY (INSAR/POLINSAR)
  - 4. TOMOGRAPHY





(http://www.nrcan.gc.ca/earth-sciences/geomatics/satellite-imagery-air-photos/satellite-imagery-products/educational-resources/)

#### (1) Simple Radar Backscatter

- Radar transmits alternatively H and V polarized waves
- · Radar receives simultaneously H and V
- Amplitude of backscattered energy (no phase)



Slide Courtesy of: Marco Lavalle (JPL)

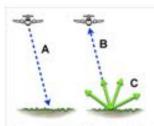
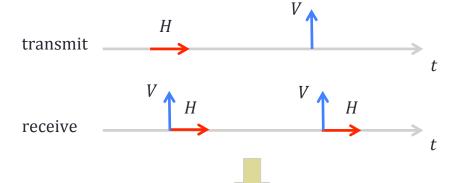


Figure 1-10b from this slide, courtesy of: Canada Centre for Mapping and Earth Observation (formerly Canada Centre for Remote Sensing), Natural Resources Canada

Figure 1-10b: Illustrating backscatter - only a small part of the scattered energy (C) is received back at the radar antenna (B)

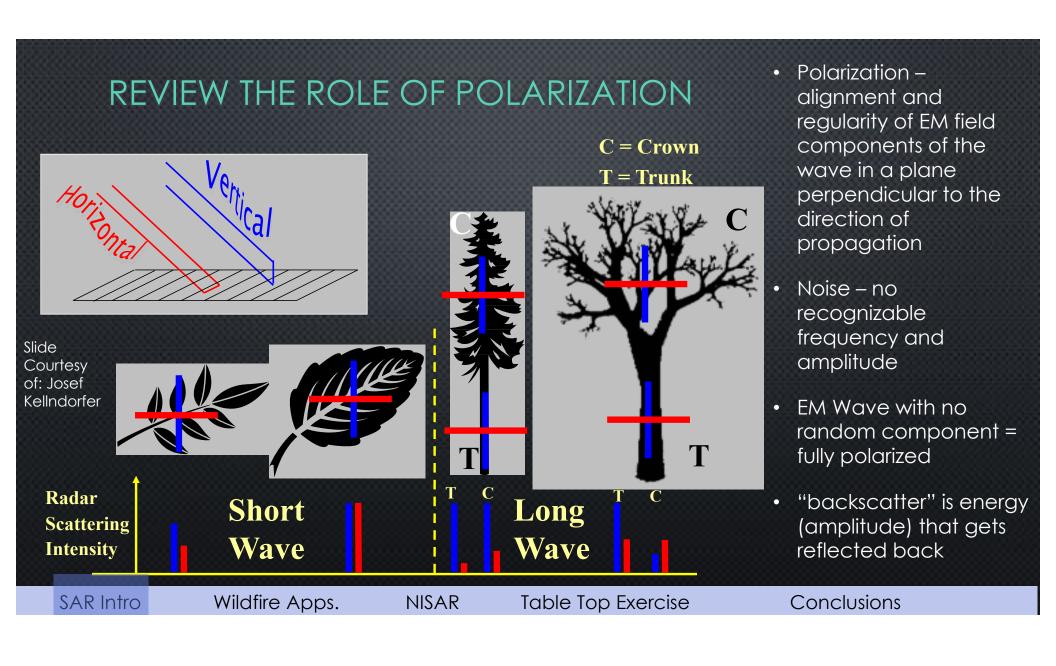


$$\left( \begin{array}{c} E_{H}^{s} \\ E_{V}^{s} \end{array} \right) = \frac{e^{-j\beta r}}{r} \left( \begin{array}{c} S_{HH} & S_{HV} \\ S_{VH} & S_{VV} \end{array} \right) \left( \begin{array}{c} E_{H}^{i} \\ E_{V}^{i} \end{array} \right)$$
 scattering matrix [S]

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Table Top Exercise



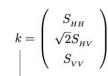
#### (2) Coherent Radar Polarimetry

scattering matrix

- Both amplitude and phase are retained and processed
- "Measurement" is the 3 × 3 covariance matrix
- Depolarization and scattering mechanisms to study ecosystems



 $\left(\begin{array}{c} E_{\scriptscriptstyle H}^s \\ E_{\scriptscriptstyle V}^s \end{array}\right) = \frac{e^{-j\beta r}}{r} \left(\begin{array}{cc} S_{\scriptscriptstyle HH} & S_{\scriptscriptstyle HV} \\ S_{\scriptscriptstyle VH} & S_{\scriptscriptstyle VV} \end{array}\right) \left(\begin{array}{c} E_{\scriptscriptstyle H}^i \\ E_{\scriptscriptstyle V}^i \end{array}\right)$ 



scattering vector



$$[C] = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i}^{N} k_{i} k_{i}^{H} = \begin{pmatrix} \langle |S_{HH}|^{2} \rangle & \sqrt{2} \langle S_{HH} S_{HV}^{*} \rangle & \langle S_{HH} S_{VV}^{*} \rangle \\ \sqrt{2} \langle S_{HV} S_{HH}^{*} \rangle & 2 \langle |S_{HV}|^{2} \rangle & \sqrt{2} \langle S_{HV} S_{VV}^{*} \rangle \\ \langle S_{VV} S_{HH}^{*} \rangle & \sqrt{2} \langle S_{VV} S_{HV}^{*} \rangle & \langle |S_{VV}|^{2} \rangle \end{pmatrix}$$

Slide Courtesy of: Marco Lavalle (JPL)

complex covariance matrix

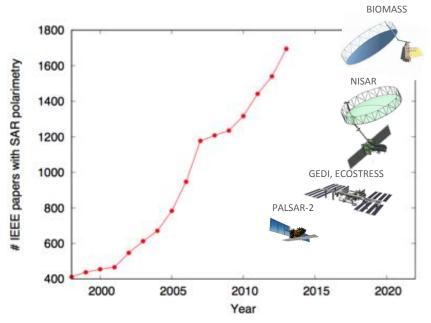
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#### (2) Coherent Radar Polarimetry



Slide Courtesy of: Marco Lavalle (JPL)

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Jet Propulsion Laboratory, California Institute of Technology

#### (2) Coherent Radar Polarimetry

$$u_i = \begin{pmatrix} \cos \alpha_i \\ \sin \alpha_i \cos \beta_i e^{j\delta_i} \\ \sin \alpha_i \sin \beta_i e^{j\gamma_i} \end{pmatrix}$$

parameterized eigenvector

$$p_i = \frac{\lambda_i}{\sum_{q=1}^3 \lambda_q}$$

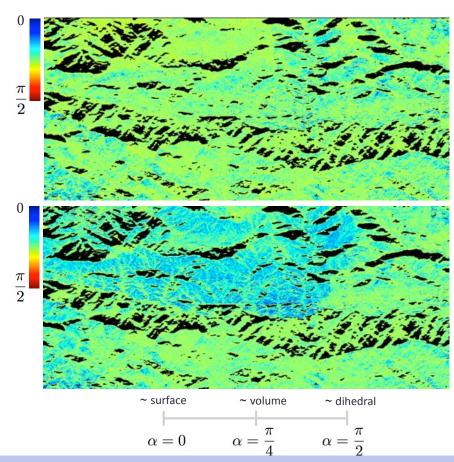
eigenvalues



Alpha "scattering mechanism"

$$\alpha = \sum_{i=1}^{3} p_i \alpha_i \quad 0 \le \alpha \le \frac{\pi}{2}$$

Slide Courtesy of: Marco Lavalle (JPL)



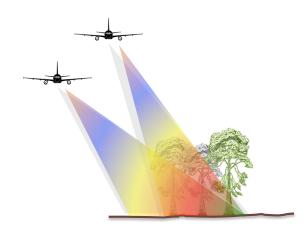
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#### (3) Polarimetric Radar Interferometry

- polarimetry "sees" different forest components
- interferometry retrieves the 3D location of the component
- canopy height, vertical structure



Slide Courtesy of: Marco Lavalle (JPL)

$$\gamma = |\gamma|e^{j\varphi} = \frac{\langle s_1 s_2^* \rangle}{\sqrt{\langle s_1 s_1^* \rangle \langle s_2 s_2^* \rangle}}$$

PolInSAR coherence (temporal and volumetric)

model parameters

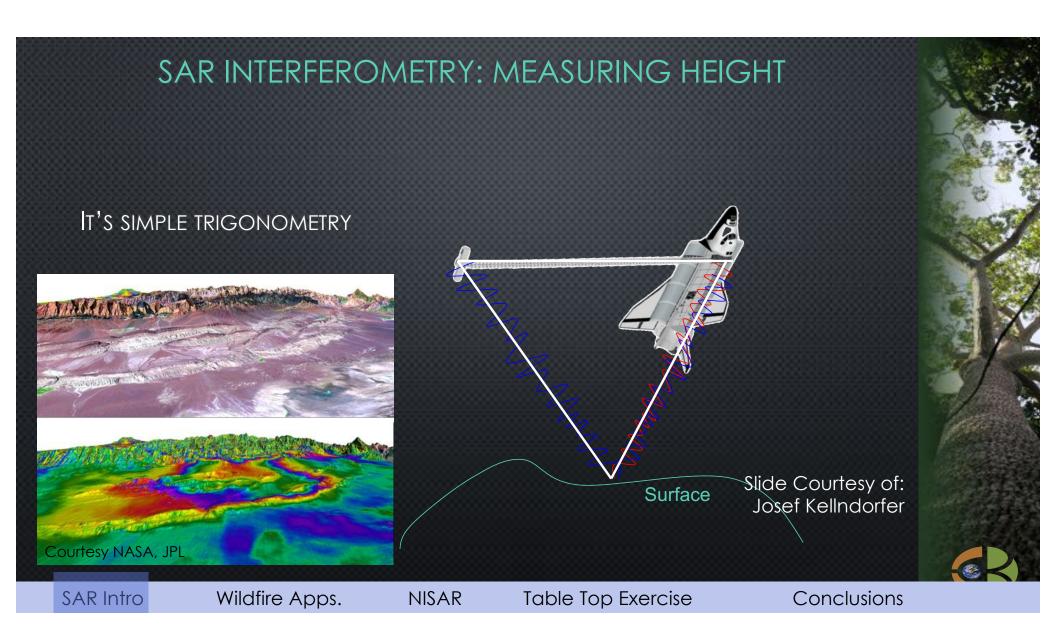
canopy height wave extinction ground topography

surface-to-volume ratio

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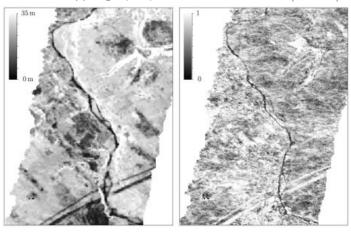
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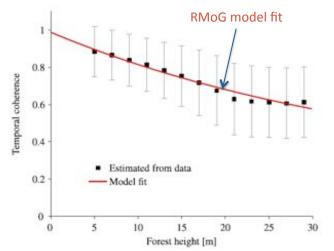
#### (3) Polarimetric Radar Interferometry

lidar canopy height (LVIS)

HV radar coherence (UAVSAR)



JPL/UAVSAR L-band airborne radar 45 min temporal baseline Laurentides, Quebec



Slide Courtesy of: Marco Lavalle (JPL)

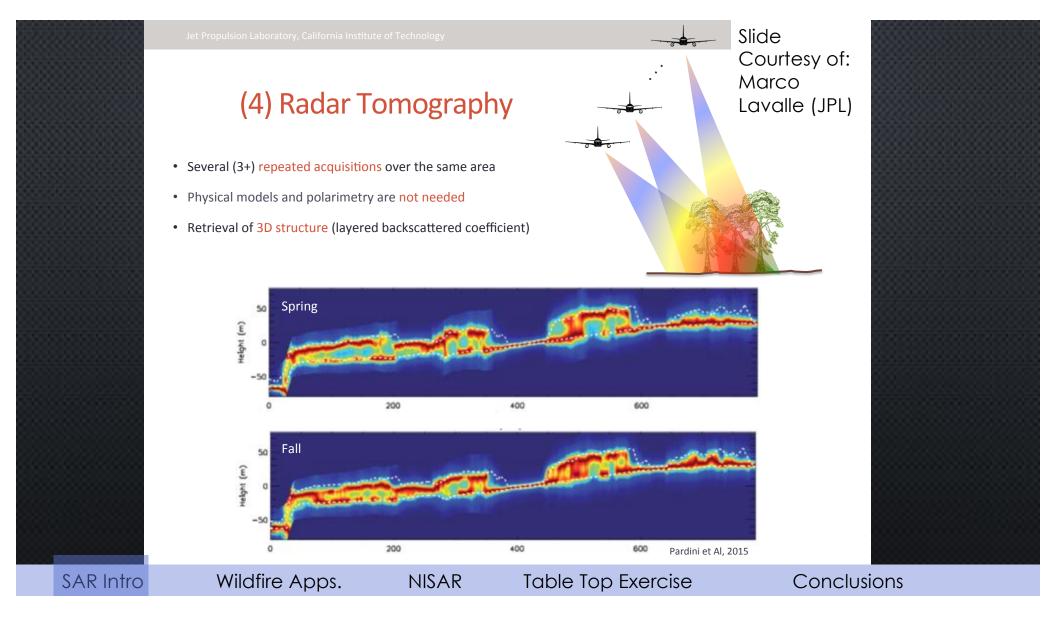
Lavalle et Al., "A temporal decorrelation model for polarimetric radar interferometers", IEEE TGRS 2012.

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- 1. CHANGE DETECTION AND MAPPING
  - 2. MOISTURE: SOIL AND VEGETATION
    - 3. BIOMASS

SAR Intro Wildfire Apps. NISAR Table Top Exercise Conclusions

# DETECTION AND MAPPING SLIDES COURTESY OF: JOSEF KELLNDORFER AND SANG-HO YUN Wildfire Apps. Table Top Exercise Conclusions **SAR Intro NISAR**

#### Slide Courtesy of: Josef Kellndorfer (Earth Big Data)

#### **ALOS LHH Time series**

April 24<sup>th</sup>: Before fire

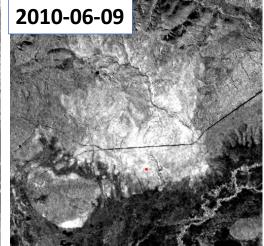
June 6<sup>th</sup>: 11 days after

fire starts

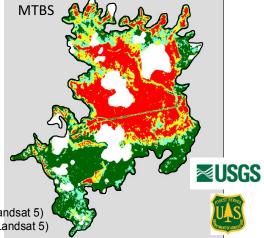
Sept. 9<sup>th</sup>: Fire scar well

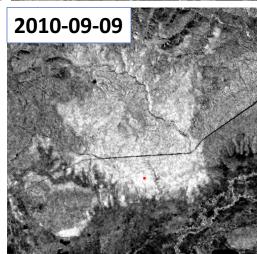
identifiable

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			1 500	



Acreage of Burn Severity			
Burn Severity	Acres		
Unburned to Low	6,035		
Low	2,679		
Moderate	2,787		
High	5,509		
Increased Greenness	45		
Non-Processing Area Mask*	3,464		
Total	20,519		







Latitude: 64° 20' 16.8" Longitude: -145° 45' 28.8" Fire Ignition Date: May 26, 2010 Assessment Type: Extended

Pre-Fire Image Date: July 11, 2009 (Landsat 5) Post-Fire Image Date: July 17, 2011 (Landsat 5)

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#### Slide Courtesy of: Sang-Ho Yun (JPL)

#### CHANGE DETECTION USING FREQUENT REPEAT VISITS

UVASAR ID: 26524





- Number of data: 15
  - before event: 14 & after event: 1
- All data is acquired using Full-Quad polarization
- Baseline: less than ~10 m
- No volumetric decorrelation
- Coherence is mainly determined by temporal decorrelation

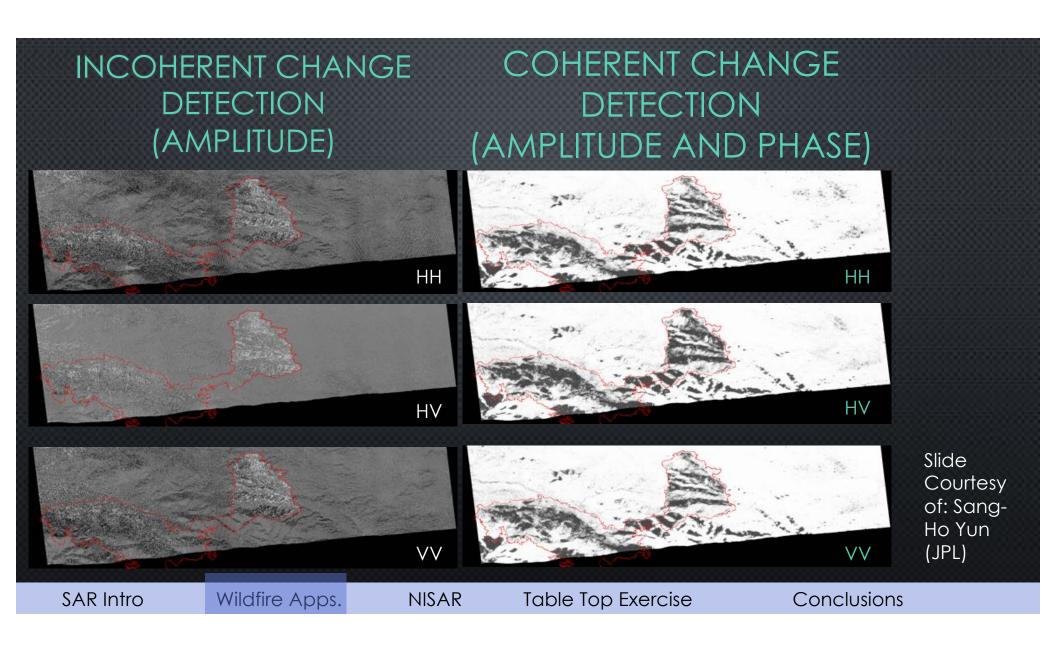
Parameter	Value	
Frequency	L-Band 1217.5 to 1297.5 MHz	
Bandwidth	80 MHz	
Resolution	1.67 m Range, 0.8 m Azimuth	
Polarization	Full Quad-Polarization	
ADC Bits	2,4,6,8,10 & 12 bit selectable BFPQ, 180Mhz	
Waveform	Nominal Chirp/ Arbitrary Waveform	
Antenna Aperture	0.5 m range /1.5 azimuth (electrical)	
Azimuth Steering	Greater than ±20° (±45° goal)	
Transmit Power	> 3.1 kW	
Polarization Isolation	<-25 dB (<-30 dB goal)	
Swath Width	> 23 km	

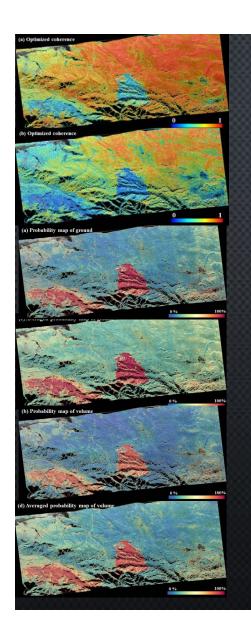
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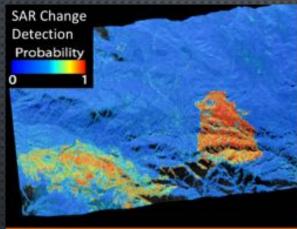
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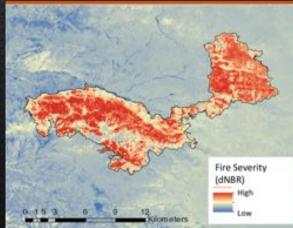
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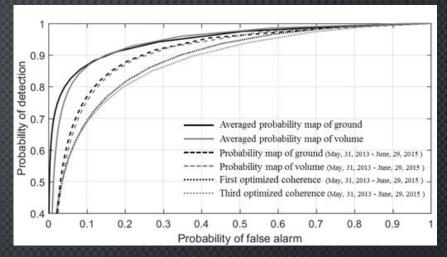




#### PERFORMANCE EVALUATIONS



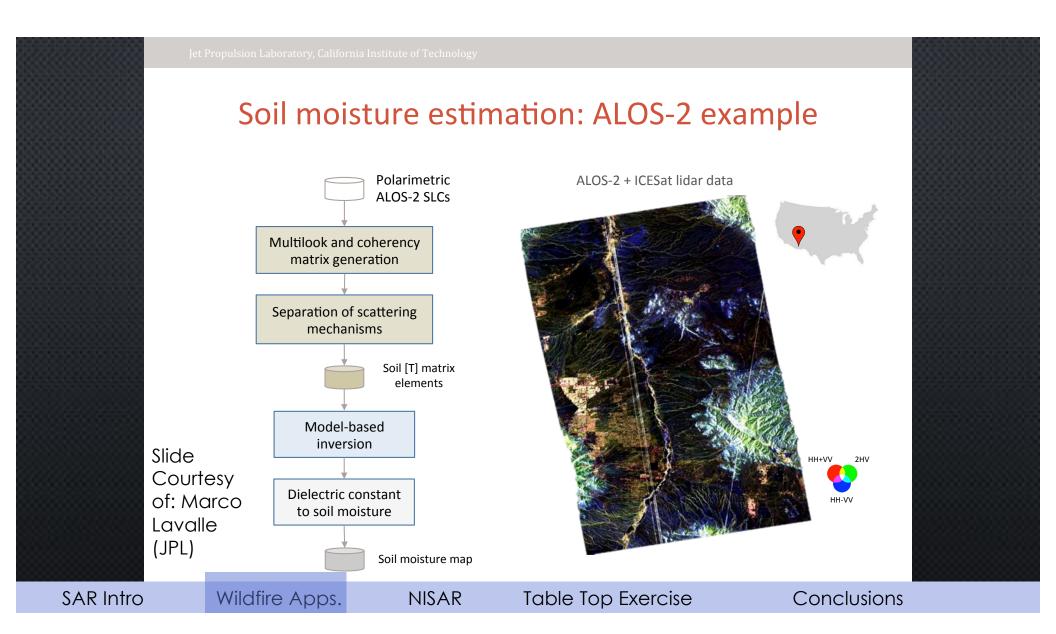




Product	PFA @ PD=0.85	PD @ PFA=0.1
Coherence opt1	0.25	0.68
Coherence opt3	0.29	0.68
Individual Prob. of ground	0.14	0.77
Individual Prob. of volume	0.16	0.75
Averaged Prob. of ground	0.07	0.87
Averaged Prob. of volume	0.08	0.86

Slide Courtesy of: Sang-Ho Yun (JPL)

# MOISTURE: SOIL AND VEGETATION SLIDES COURTESY OF: Wildfire Apps. SAR Intro Table Top Exercise Conclusions **NISAR**

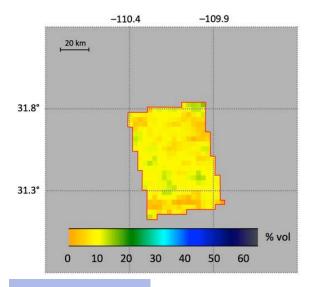


#### Soil moisture estimation: ALOS-2 example

ALOS-2

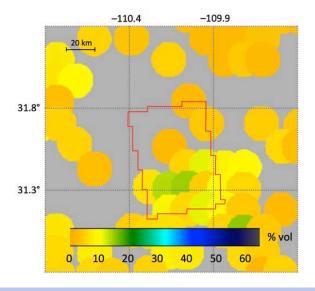


Acquisition date is 2015/03/07
Posting is 3.3 Km to match SMAP posting
Quad-polarimetric SAR data
Model-based soil moisture retrieval





Acquisition date is 2015/04/25
Posting is 3 km after multilooking
1 dot = 1 pixel enlarged for display
Gaps are retrieval failures

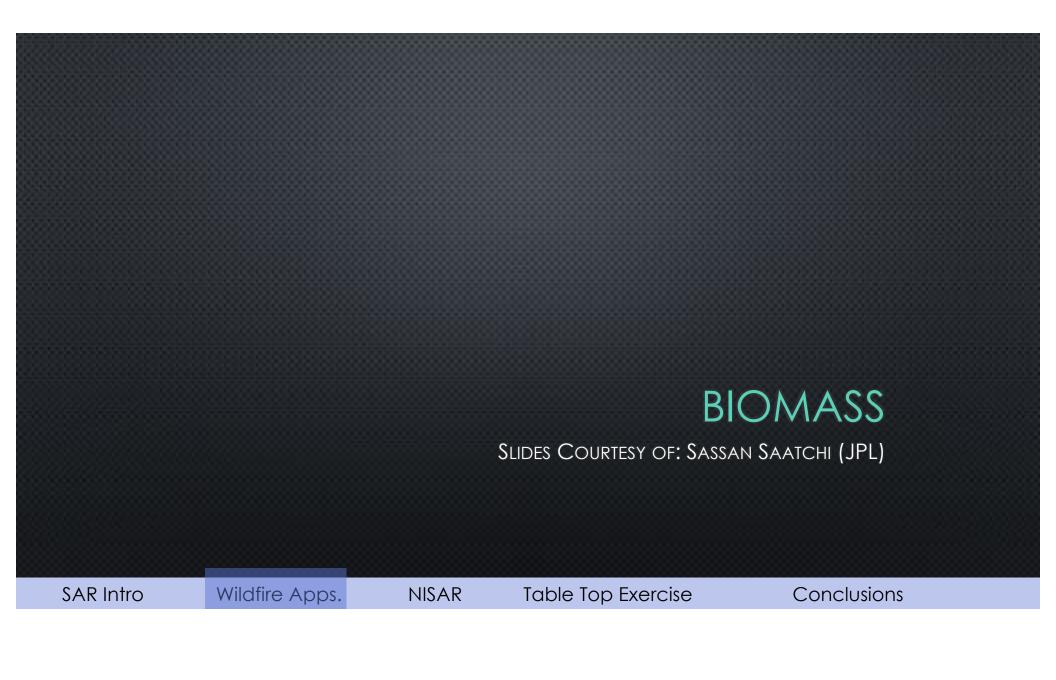


Slide Courtesy of: Marco Lavalle (JPL)

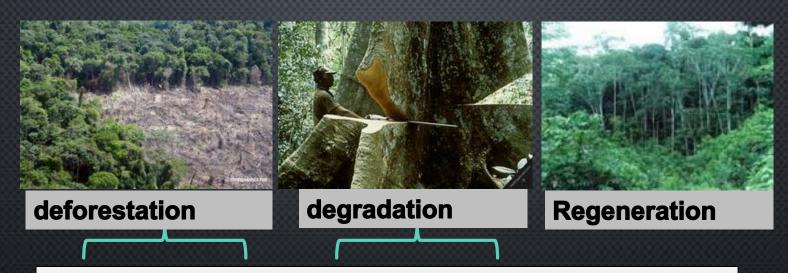
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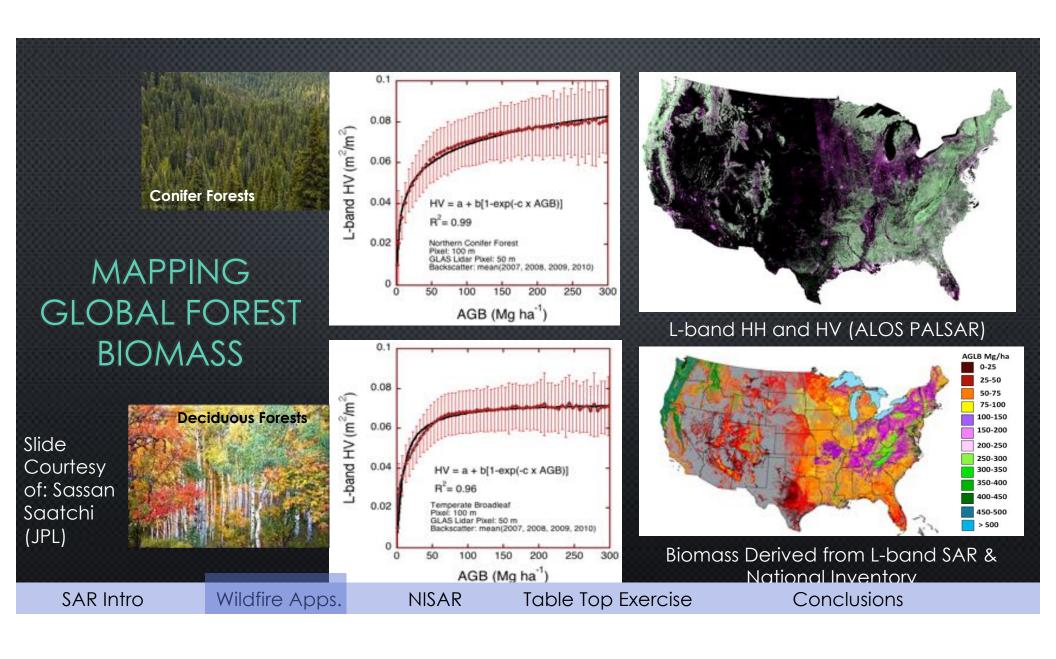
SAR can help measure carbon emissions and removals from deforestation, degradation, and regeneration by measuring vegetation biomass and monitoring changes



Slide Courtesy of: Sassan Saatchi (JPL)

$$\Delta C = \sum \Delta A \cdot B \cdot E_{def} + \sum A \cdot \Delta B \cdot E_{deg} + \sum A \cdot \Delta B \cdot R_{reg}$$

where A is the area of forest type, with biomass B, emission efficiency factor E, and removal efficiency R



### NASA-ISRO SYNTHETIC APERTURE RADAR (NISAR) OVERVIEW AND APPLICATIONS PLAN OVERVIEW

SLIDES COURTESY OF: PAUL ROSEN AND NATASHA STAVROS

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#### NISAR MISSION OBJECTIVES

#### Relevant Scientific Objectives:

· Understand the dynamics of carbon storage and uptake in wooded, agricultural, wetland, and permafrost systems

#### **Relevant Applications Objectives:**

- Provide agricultural monitoring capability in support of food security objectives
- Apply NISAR's unique data set to explore the potentials for urgent response and hazard mitigation

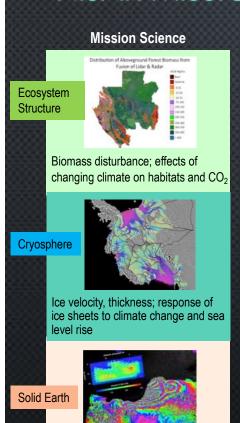
To be accomplished in partnership with the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) through the joint development and operation of a space-borne, dual-frequency, polarimetric, synthetic aperture radar (SAR) satellite mission with repeat-pass interferometry capability

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#### NISAR MISSION CONCEPT OVERVIEW



- Major partnership between US National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)
- Baseline launch date: No earlier than 2021
- Dual frequency L- and S-band Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR)
  - L-band SAR from NASA and S-band SAR from ISRO
- NASA 3.5 Gbps Ka-band telecom system to polar ground stations (> 24 Tbits/day downlink capability)
- Spacecraft: ISRO I3K with 1 Gbps telecom system
- Launch vehicle: ISRO Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) Mark-II (4-m fairing)
- 3 years science operations (5+ years consumables)
- All science data (L- and S-band) will be made available free and open, consistent with the long-standing NASA Earth Science open data policy

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Surface deformation; geo-hazards;

water resource management

Slide Courtesy of: Paul Rosen(JPL)

# NISAR CONCEPT SCIENCE OBSERVATION OVERVIEW

	NISAR Characteristic:	Would Enable:	
ı	L-band (24 cm wavelength)	Low temporal decorrelation and foliage penetration	
	S-band (12 cm wavelength)	Sensitivity to light vegetation	
	SweepSAR technique with Imaging Swath >240 km	Global data collection	
Polarimetry (Single/Dual/Quad)		Surface characterization and biomass estimation	
12-day exact repeat		Rapid Sampling	
3-10 meters mode-dependent SAR resolution		Small-scale observations	
3 years since operations (5 years consumables)		Time-series analysis	
Pointing control < 273 arcseconds		Deformation interferometry	
ı	Orbit control < 500 meters	Deformation interferometry	
ı	>30% observation duty cycle	Complete land/ice coverage	
ı	Left/Right pointing capability	Polar coverage, North and South	
_	Noise Equivalent Sigma Zero ≤ -23 db	Surface characterization of smooth surfaces	
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#### LEVEL 3 ECOSYSTEM PRODUCTS CURRENTLY BEING DEVELOPED FOR GLOBAL PRODUCTION AND RELEASED ANNUALLY

BIOMASS ESTIMATION

aboveground woody vegetation biomass annually at the hectare scale (1 ha) to an RMS accuracy of 20 Mg/ha for 80% of areas of biomass less than 100 Mg/ha.

DISTURBANCE DETECTION

global areas of vegetation disturbance at 1 hectare resolution annually for areas losing at least 50% canopy cover with a classification accuracy of 80%.

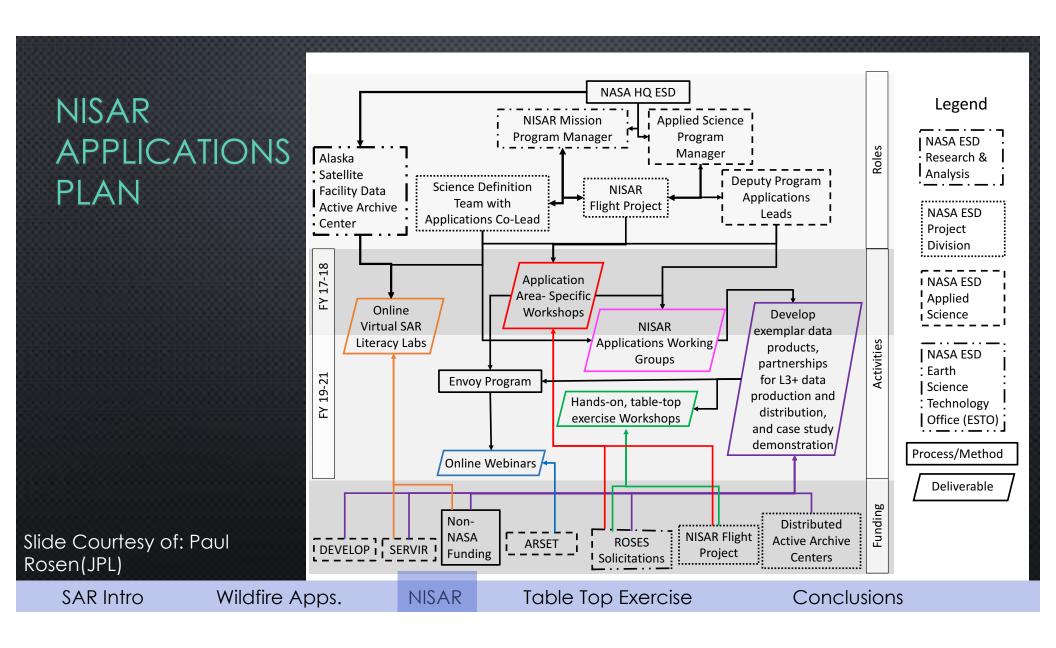
AGRICULTURE CLASSIFICATION

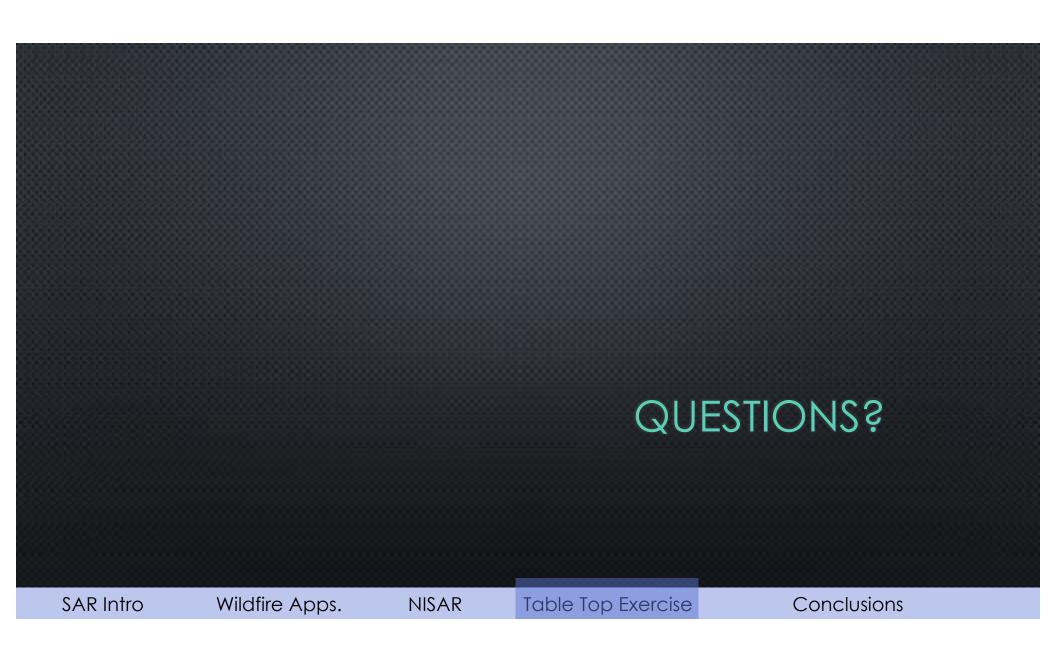
crop area at 1 hectare resolution every 3 months with a classification accuracy of 80%.

WETLAND CLASSIFICATION

inundation extent within inland and coastal wetlands areas at a resolution of 1 hectare every 12 days with a classification accuracy of 80%.

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#### 7 TABLES:

2 TABLES: BIOMASS/FOREST HEIGHT

• 2 TABLES: VEG/SOIL MOISTURE

2 TABLES: DETECTION AND MAPPING

• 1 TABLE: OTHER (CONSERVATION, ETC.)

- Break into 3 groups to discuss (20 min) & report out (20 min):
  - 1. What agencies/organizations are the key players (i.e., who is the trusted source of information used in this arena? Is there a "Champion" we should be working with?)
  - 2. What are the current decision support systems employed?
  - 3. What are the information gaps in the current decision support systems?
  - 4. CAN YOU SEE SAR HELPING TO FILL ANY OF THESE INFORMATION GAPS? IF SO, WHAT INFORMATION PRODUCTS WOULD NEED TO BE DEVELOPED (INCLUDING SPECIFICATIONS OF FREQUENCY, LATENCY, ETC.)?
  - 5. What are the Best ways to engage with the Community who would most want this data (e.g., how do we garner trust and a collaborative relationship)?

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#### **RESOURCES**

- NISAR ECOSYSTEMS DEPUTY APPLICATION LEAD: <u>NATASHA.STAVROS@JPL.NASA.GOV</u>
  - NISAR APPLICATIONS MAILING LIST: WORKSHOPS, NISAR STATUS UPDATES, ETC.
  - SAR EXPERT CONNECTIONS
  - DEVELOP -- 10 WEEK FEASIBILITY STUDIES TO SEE HOW SAR CAN WORK FOR YOU
- 2 PAGE INFORMATIONAL ON TABLE
- TUTORIALS/EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES
  - SAREDU
  - UNAVCO
  - NATURAL RESOURCES CANADA
  - ARSET

## THINGS TO THINK ABOUT FROM DAVID GREEN'S ASP DISASTERS PROGRAM

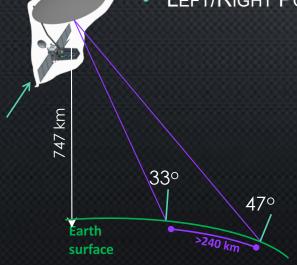
- 2017 ROSES DISASTER CALL (OUT IN MAY)
  - STRINGS:
    - COST-SHARING (MULTI-YEAR TAKE MORE BURDEN EACH YEAR)
    - ARL 4-9 EXCEPTIONS CAN BE MADE
    - MUST HAVE LETTER OF SUPPORT/CO-I/ACTIVE MEMBER OF TEAM BY STAKEHOLDER
  - ROLLING 1 PG PROPOSALS THAT USE ARIA (\$40-50k TO RAISE LOW ARL TO ARL4 FOR PROPOSING TO THE DISASTERS CALL + HIGHLY DESIRED FOR MANY PEOPLE ACROSS NASA CENTERS/AGENCIES)
- ESRI INTEGRATION OF NASA DATA INTO ARCGIS ONLINE ——
  - HIGHEST PRIORITY STAKEHOLDER COMMUNITY NEEDS
  - WHAT ARE DECISIONAL AND SCIENCE PRODUCTS
  - HIGHEST PRIORITY IS HIGH ARL PRODUCTS

BACK-UP

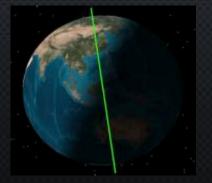
#### Slide Courtesy of: Paul Rosen(JPL)

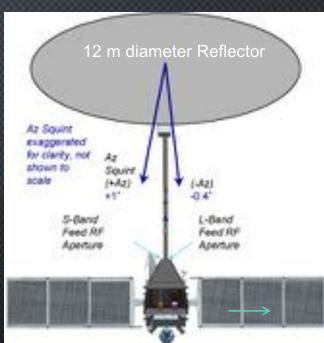
#### NISAR IMAGING AND ORBIT GEOMETRY

- WIDE SWATH IN ALL MODES FOR GLOBAL COVERAGE AT 12 DAY REPEAT (2-5 PASSES OVER A SITE DEPENDING UPON LATITUDE)
- Data acquired ascending and descending
- LEFT/RIGHT POINTING CAPABILITY (RIGHT NOMINAL)



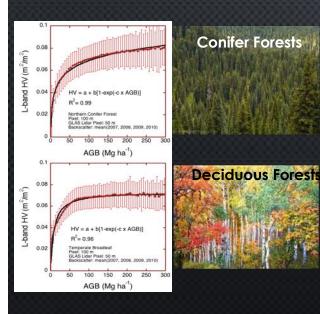






6 AM / 6 PM Orbit 98.5° inclination Arctic Polar Hole: 87.5°R/77.5°L Antarctic Polar Hole: 77.5°R/87.5°L

### MAPPING GLOBAL FOREST BIOMASS



Slide Courtesy of: Sassan Saatchi (JPL)

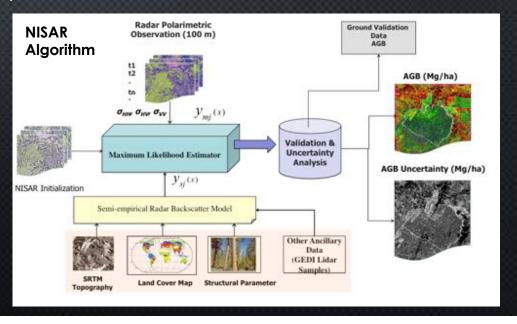


L-band HH and HV (ALOS PALSAR)

NISAR 12-day global forest observation allows estimation of forest biomass at 1-ha with the low uncertainty for biomass < 100 Mg/ha



Biomass Derived from L-band SAR & National Inventory



#### NISAR Observation of Global Vegetation Biomass

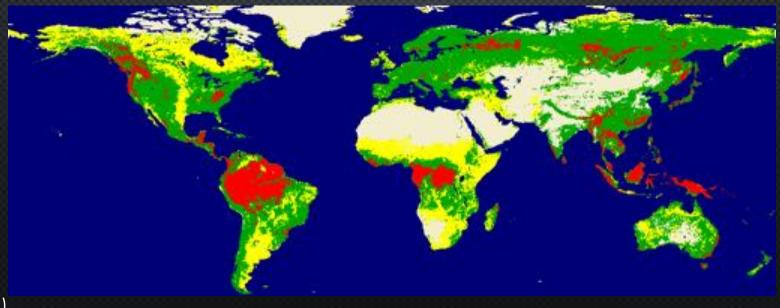
Geographical Regions of NISAR Forest Biomass Estimation

Regions with AGB < 100 Mg/ha 50% of area Regions with AGB > 100 Mg/ha 50% of area Regions with AGB < 20 Mg/ha 50% of area

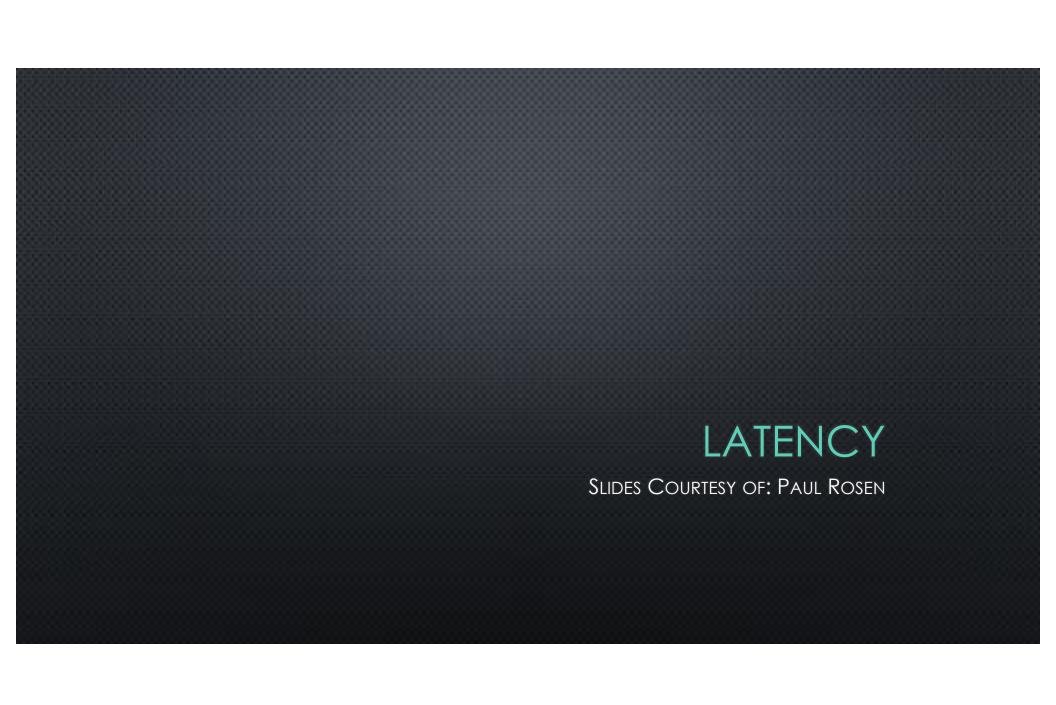
Regions with No woody vegetation

Open Water

The global distribution of regions dominated by with woody biomass < 100 Mg/ha

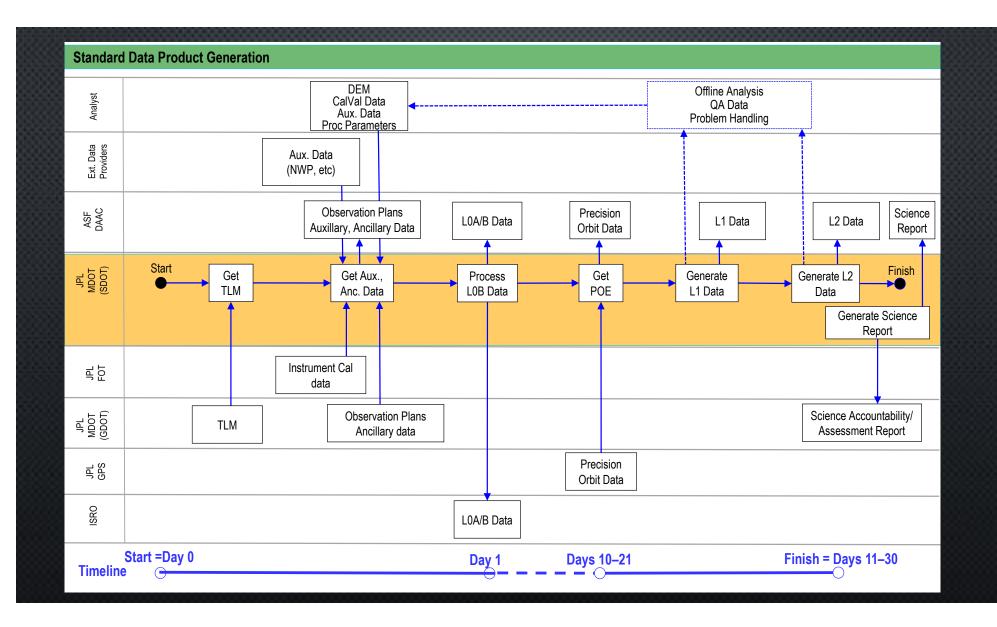


Slide Courtesy of: Sassan Saatchi (JPL)



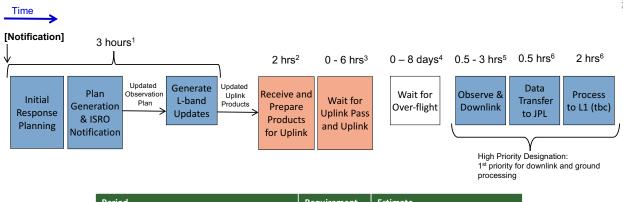
Product	To DAAC
LO	
L0A (catalog incoming raw data)	3.25
L0B Radar Signal Data	3.25
L1	
Range-Doppler (i.e., Radar-Coordinate) Single-Look Complex (SLC)	30.33
Multi-Look Detected Browse (MLD)	0.54
L2 (all modes)	
Geocoded Single-Look Complex	30.33
Interferogram (nearest-time pair)	8.67
Amplitude Image (most recent image in InSAR pair)	4.33
Unwrapped Interferogram	4.33
Geocoded Amplitude Image (most recent image in InSAR pair)	4.33
Geocoded Unwrapped Interferogram	4.33
L2 Ecosystem (Quad)	
Polarimetric Image Channels	0.43
Polarimetric Coherence	0.43
Geocoded Polarimetric Image Channels	0.43
Geocoded Polarimetric Coherence	0.43
Total (TB)	95.44

Summary *			
Prod Level	# of Prod Types	Volume (TB/day)	
Level 0	2	6.5	
Level 1	2	30.9	
Level 2	10	58.1	
Total	14	95.4	



### Notional\* Urgent Observations

\*Urgent Response Plan is currently under development



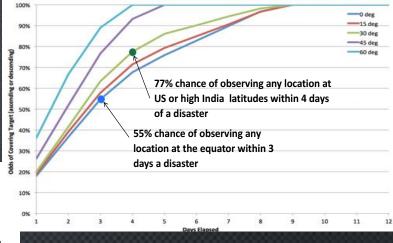
Period	Requirement	Estimate
Time from Request to Scheduled Observation(s)	24 (TBR) hours	5 – 11 hours
Time from Observation to Product Delivery	9 (TBR) hours	3 to 5.5 hours
Wait for overflight		0 – 8 days

#### Notes

Responsibility Key:

NASA/JPL

- 1. Only changes in observation priorities from "normal" to "urgent" are required. Only L-SAR changes are required.
- 2. Assumes 2 hour ISTRAC processing time.
- 3. Assume only one pass required for uplink.
- 4. Based on Monte-Carlo analysis showing >97% probability of over-flight at an arbitrary latitude within 8 days
- 5. Assumes an DTE coverage gap no longer than 3 hours
- 6. Assumes urgent response data is no more than 10% of daily volume



Time of First Imaging Opportunity after Disaster as a Function of Latitude



#### Issues and Challenges of Near Real-Time Data Acquisition and Management

#### For missions:

- Mode requirements
- Mission operations
- Downlink costs
- Developing an urgent response play book to mark "urgent response" protocols
- Trade studies for understanding costs of meeting low latency
- Network costs

#### For applications communities:

- There is needed infrastructure for higher level processing for information products (that aren't usually in L1 & L2 requirements)
- Such infrastructure requires investment for development
- Longer time-series of information products that utilize the international synthetic aperture radar (SAR) constellation can help justify the investment for such development
- High priority NRT data products for SAR:
  - change detection
  - soil moisture
  - sea ice